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## Advocate of Peace

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## AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY REORGANIZED

THE Eighty-eighth Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society was held in Washington on May 13. Official records pertaining to the meeting appear elsewhere in these pages. It will be noted that fundamental changes in the organization of the Society have been adopted. The group known as Directors at Large has been abolished. There is now but one grade of Directors, some of whom represent the divisions of the Society and others such organizations as the Church Peace Union, the Society for the Judicial Settlement of International Disputes, the American School Peace League. Direct memberships in the American Peace Society are no longer possible. Members can no longer vote at an annual meeting of the whole Society, as heretofore. Members will hereafter vote in the divisions to which they belong. The classes of memberships have been changed to six in number, as follows: Annual members, with dues not less than \$1; sustaining members, with dues not less than \$5; contributing members, not less than \$25; life members, not less than \$100; institutional members, not less than \$25, and honorary members.

The unit of organization is at present the division which is practically the American Peace Society within a State. When completed the American Peace Society will, therefore, have at least forty-eight divisions. It is provided that each division shall organize itself into sections, and that the Board of Directors may group the divisions into departments. The Executive Committee has been changed from nine to fifteen members, to be composed of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, six other members of the Board of Directors, and six other members of the Society who may or may not be members of the Board of Directors. Inspired by the history of the Red Cross, a committee has been appointed for the purpose of studying the recommendation of the Secretary that the American Peace Society be reorganized under a Government act to the end that it may carry on its construction work logically with Government co-operation.

## COLONEL ROOSEVELT—PACIFIST

OL. ROOSEVELT, your address in the city of Detroit on May 19 is the expression of a sincere American. We are perfectly willing to agree that you are not speaking in the interest of any man and, least of all, of yourself. Also, we are perfectly willing to agree that there are "certain great principles which should be fundamental in this giant democratic Commonwealth of ours." It is true that Mr. Ford has been victorious in the Michigan primary for the selection of delegates to the Republican National Convention, and that he has shown marked popular strength in Nebraska and Pennsylvania. We are inclined to agree with you that Mr. Ford's supporters in the primaries seemingly come chiefly from the workingmen, the pacifists, and the German-Americans. You must agree that these three classes of persons constitute a very large and a very intelligent section of our American people.

We cannot agree that these men are to our era what the Tories were to the Revolutionary days, or the Copperheads to the middle of the last century. Your statement that the Copperheads included all the pacifists of their day is inaccurate. The officers of the American Peace Society, for example, during the Civil War were all sympathizers with the North. Your ideas of a pacifist are founded in a pure misconception. You make a straw man, attribute to it various undesirable qualities, such as "eraven," "coward," "poltroon," "eunuch;" you call it a pacifist, and then proceed to hold it up to public ridicule. This is improper and unjust.

We agree with you that the issue is that we be prepared "with the sane and lofty idealism to fit ourselves to render great service to mankind." We agree with you, further, "that the only right principle is to prepare thoroughly or not at all," and we are willing to accept at its face your statement that you are "advocating preparedness so as to avoid war." We are inclined to thank you for emphasizing that full preparedness "is not only military, but at least as much industrial and social." In short, we are glad when you place yourself flatly upon the platform of the pacifist. It is not true that the pacifists subscribe to any "ignoble submission to wrong," and we do not teach "that peace stands above righteousness." Our contention is that war is subversive of righteousness and is in itself a most woeful submission to wrong. We note that you are trying to overcome war. You are, therefore, a pacifist.